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October 31, 2003

**VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW – Lobby Level  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Notice of Ex Parte – CC Docket No. 96-149; CC Docket No. 98-141**  
In the Matter of Petition of SBC for Forbearance From the Prohibition of Sharing Operating, Installation and Maintenance Functions Under Sections 53.203(a)(2) and 53.203(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules and Modification of Operating, Installation and Maintenance Conditions Contained in the SBC/Ameritech Merger Order

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On the evening of October 29, 2003, I had a brief telephone conversation with Daniel Gonzalez, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Kevin Martin. During the conversation, we discussed arguments SBC has previously made in the above-referenced proceeding, and, in particular, its claim that the OI&M rules should not be read to restrict sharing of OI&M services between SBC's long distance affiliate and its Data Services affiliates.

Sincerely,

**/s/ Gary L. Phillips**

cc: Daniel Gonzalez (*via first class mail*)